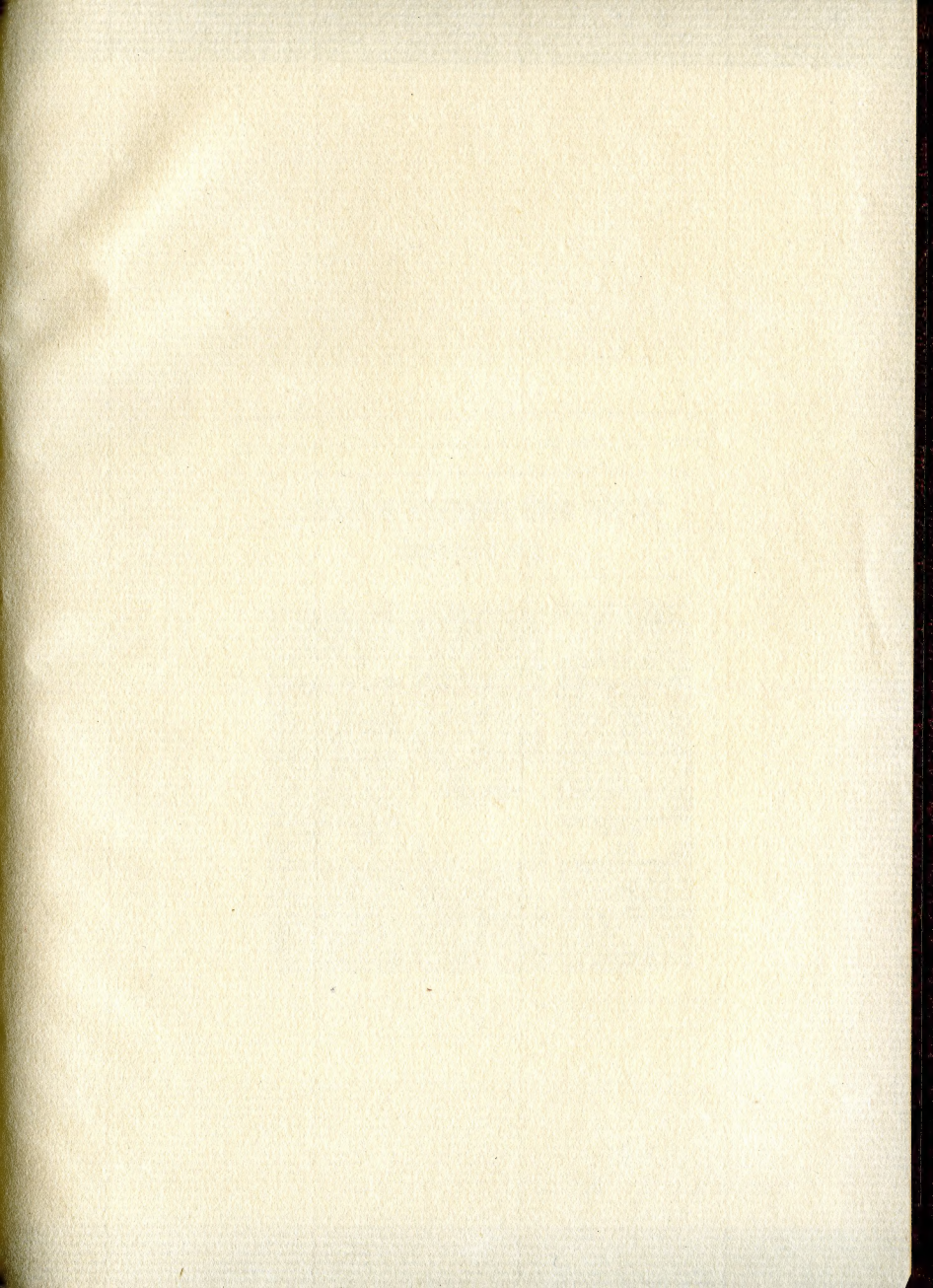


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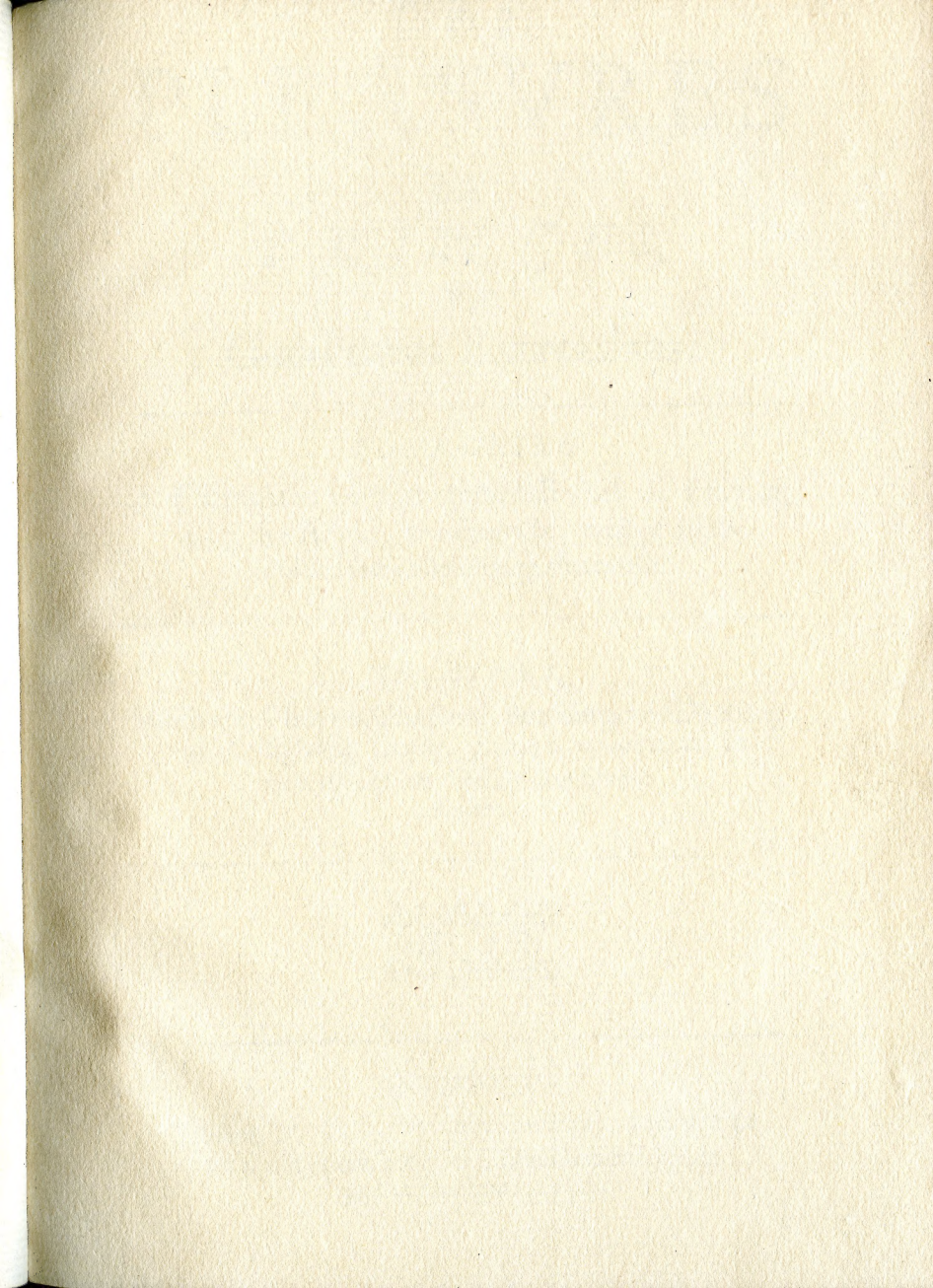
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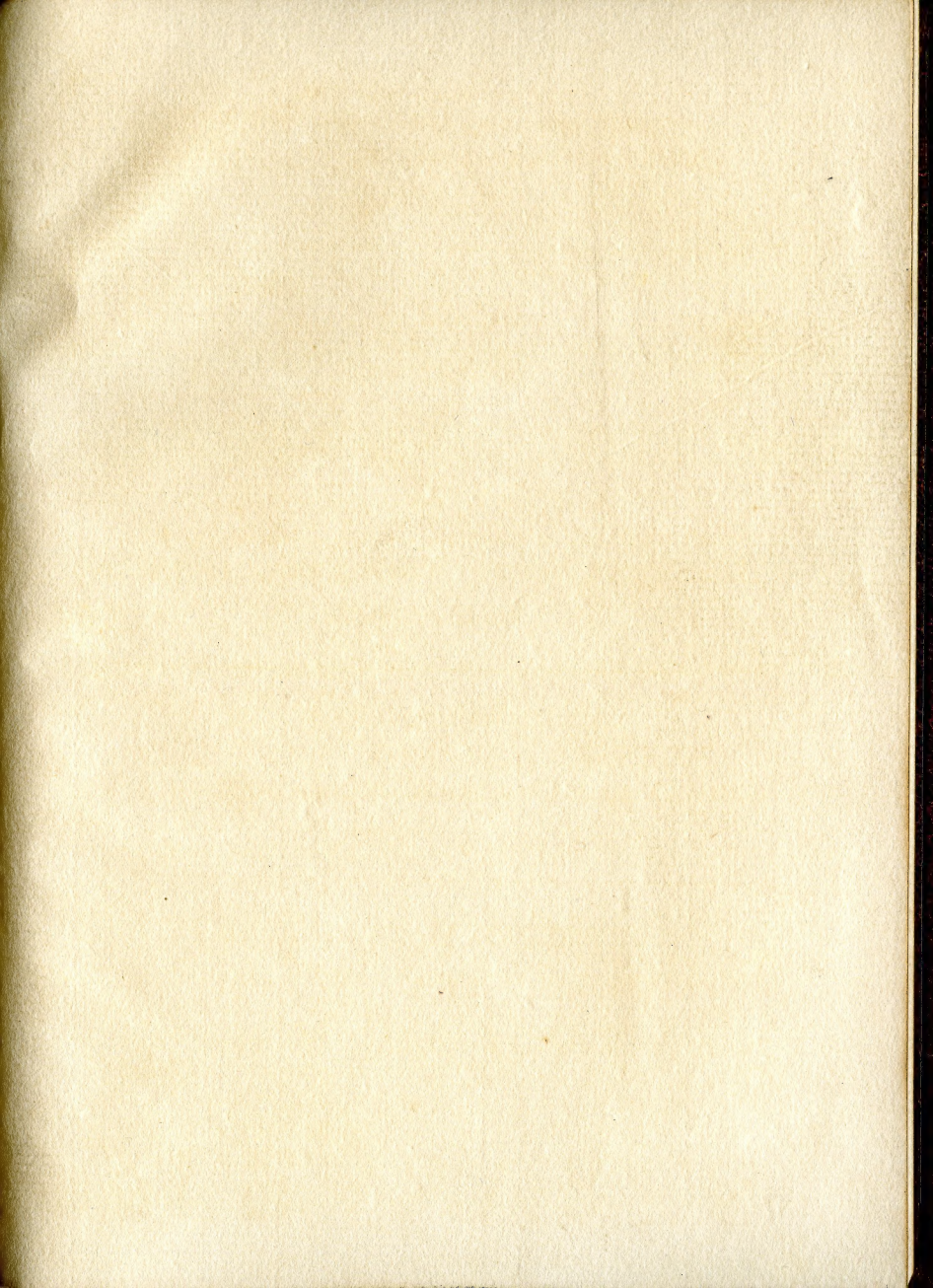














# THE PLEASVRES

OF  
P R I N C E S,  
OR

Good mens Recreations:

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CONTAINING

A Discourse of the generall Art of Fishing  
with the Angle, or otherwise. and of all the  
hidden secrets belonging thereunto.

---

TOGETHER

With the Choyce, Ordering, Breeding, and Dyeetting  
of the fighting Cocke. Being a worke neuer in  
that nature handled by any former  
*Author.*

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LONDON:

Printed by T. S. for *John Browne*, and are to  
be sould at his Shop in S. Dunstanes Church-  
yard in Fleetstreet. 1615.



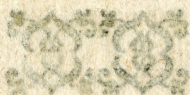
PLEASE  
THE

OF  
P R I N C E S  
OR

Good mens Recitations:  
By G. M. (Gervais Markham)

Form part of the second  
A Discourse of the General Art of Learning  
with the Angle, or otherwise, and of all the  
hidden secrets belonging therunto.

TOGETHER  
With the Choice Ordering, Breeding, and Dyeing  
of the fighting Cocke. Being a worke never in  
that name handled by any former  
Author.



LONDON:  
Printed by T. S. for Iohn Browne, and are to  
be sold at his shop in St. Dunstons Church-  
yard in Fleetstreet. 1617.





# THE PLEASURES *of Princes.*

## CHAP. I.

Of Angling, the Vertue, Vse, and Antiquitie.



Since Pleasure is a rapture, or power in this last age, stolns into the hearts of men, and there lodged by with such a carefull garde and attendance, that nothing is more supream, or ruleth with greater strength in their affections, and since all are now become the sonnes of Pleasure, and euery good is measured by the delight it produceth: what worke vnto men can be more thankefull then the discourse of that pleasure which is most comely, most honest, and giueth the most libertie to diuine meditation, and that without all question is the Art of Angling, which hauing euere bene most hurtlesly necessary, hath bene the sport or recreation of Gods Saints, of most holy Fathers, and of many worthy and reuerend Deuines, both dead and at this time breathing.



The **v**c of  
Angling, and  
the **v**erue.

For the vse thereof (in its owne true and vnabused nature) carrieth in it neither couetousnesse, deceit, nor anger, the three maine spirits which (euer in some ill measure) ruleth in all other pastimes: neither are they alone predominant without the attendance of their seuerall hand-maids, as Theft, Blasphemy or Bloudshed: for in Dice-play, Cardes, Bowles, or any sport where money is the goale to which mens mindes are directed, what can mans auarice there be accounted, other then a familiar robbery, each seeking by deceit to conzen and spoyle other of that blisse of meanes which God had bestowd to support them and their families: And as in euery contention there must be a betterhood or super-excelling, so in this, when the weaker deceit is depriued his expectation, how doth it then fall into curses, oathes, and furies, such as would make Vertue tremble with the imagination? But in this Art or Angling there is no such euill, no such sinnefull violence, for the greatest thing it coueteth is, for much labour a little Fish, hardly so much as will suffice Nature in a reasonable stomacke: for the Angler must intice, not command his reward, and that which is worthy millions to his contentment, another may buy for a groate in the Market. His deceit worketh not vpon men but vpon those Creatures whom it is lawfull to beguile for our honest recreations or needfull vses, and for all rage and furie it must be so great a stranger to this ciuill pastime, that if it come but within view or speculation thereof, it is no more to be esteemed a Pleasure, for euery proper good thereof in the very instant faileth, shewing vnto all men that will vndergoe any delight therein that it was first inuented, taught, and shall for euer be maintained by Patience onely. And yet I may not say onely Patience, for her other three Sisters haue likewise a commanding power in this exercise, for Iustice directeth and appointeth out those places where men may with libertie vse their sport, and neither doe iniurie to their neighbours, nor incur the censure of inciuillitie. Temperance layeth downe  
the



the measure of the action, and moderateth desire in such good proportion that no excellē is found in the overflow of their affections. Lastly, Fortitude inableth the minde to vndergoe the trauell and exchange of weathers with a healthfull ease, and not to dispayze with a little expence of time, but to perseuere with a constant imagination in the end to obtaine both pleasure and satisfaction.

Now for the Antiquitie thereof (for all pleasures, like Gentry, are held to be most excellent which is most ancient) it is by some writers sayd to be found out by Ducallion, and Pialia his Wife, after the generall flood: others write it was the inuention of Saturne, after the peace concluded betwixt him and his brother Tytan: and others, that it came from Bellus the son of Nimrod, who first inuented all holy and vertuous recreations: and all these though they sauiour of fiction, yet they differ not from truth, for it is most certaine that both Ducallion, Saturne, and Bellus, are taken for figures of Noah, and his family, and the inuention of the Art of Angling is truly sayd to come from the somes of Seth, of which Noah was most principall. Thus you see it is good, as hauing no coherence with euill, worthy of vse: in as much as it is mixt with a delightfull profit: and most auncient, as being the recreation of the first Patriarkes, wherefore now I will proceede to the Art it selfe, and the meanes to attaine it.

The antiquitie  
of Angling.

## CHAP. II.

Of the Angle-rodde, Lines, Corkes, Hookes, and other Toolēs for Angling.



As much as the first ground-woрке or substance of this Art of Angling consisteth in the implements belonging thereunto, and that except a man be possess of them which are most exact, nimble, or necessary for the same,



his labour is vaine, and to little or no purpose imployed, and for as much as the Angle-rodde is the greatest, principallest, and sole director of all other Toles belonging therunto, I thinke it not amisse to begin with the choyce and order thereof, according to the opinions of the best noted Anglers, which either haue bene in times past or are at this day liuing.

Of the Angle-  
rodde.

For the choyce then of your Angle-rodde, you shall understand that some Anglers are of opinion, that the best should be composed of two pieces, a maine body, and a small plyant toppe. The maine body would be of a fine growne ground-witchen, or a ground-Elme, of at least nine or ten foote in length, straight, smooth, without knots, and not much differing, at eyther end in one substance or thickenesse. It would be gathered at the fall of the Lease, nere, or about All-hallontide, and laid vp in some dry place, where it may lye straight, and of it selfe season: for to beake them in the fire (as many doe) when they are greene, is not so good, but after they be well dyled and seasoned of themselves, then to beake them in the fire, and set them so straight and even that an arrow may not surpasse them, is excellent: then you may take off the vpper rinde, and what with the smoake, and their owne age, their colour will be so darke that they will giue no reflect into the water (which is a principall obseruation.) Your rodde being made thus straight and seasoned, you shall at the vpper end thereof, with an Augure or a hot Iron, but a hot Iron is the better, burne a hole, about thre inches deepe, and of a fingers widenesse: then on the outside of the Rodde, from the toppe of the hole to the bottome, you shall warpe it about eyther with strong double twisted threed well waxed or pitcht, or with Shoemakers threed many times doubled, and well waxed with Shoemakers ware, and the last end fastened vnder the last foulds, so close and sure that it may by no meanes lose for: this will keepe the Rodde from cleauiing or breaking in that place where the hollownesse was made.



The Stocke being thus made, you shall into the hole fire the toppe, which would be a very small ground Bassell, growing from the earth upward, very smooth and straight, which would be cut at the latter end of the peece, and lye in season all the Winter, the vpper rinde being by no meanes taken off, neither the rodde put into the fire at all, but onely seasoned in a drye place, where it may lye straight, and haue both winde and some ayze of the fire to come to it. This toppe must be plyant and bending, yet of such a sufficient strength that it will not bryake with any reasonable ierke, but as it is any way bowed so to returne againe to the former straightnesse. This top-ward would be of a yarde and a halfe, or an elle at least in length, & at the smallest end thereof would be fastned with a warp of hayze, a strong loope of hayze, about an inch long, to which you may at pleasure fasten your fishing line: and the bigger end of the top must be thrust into the socket of the Stocke, and made so fast that it may not loosen nor shake out with any shaking, or other reasonable violence. And albe the Mitchee or ground-Elme are accounted the best to frame these maine Stocks of, yet I haue sene very good Stockes made both of Sallow, Beech, or Poplar: for the lighter your Rod is (so it be strong) it is so much the better and more for the ease of him that vseth it.

There be other approued good Anglers which allow onely that Rodde which is composed all of one entire peece, and thinke them stronger, nimbler, and lesse casuall, and these Roddes they would haue chosen of an excellent straight and well growne ground-Bassell, being from the bottome to the toppe finely rush-growne, the vpper end thereof being small, plyant, and bending. This Rodde would be gathered at the fall of the Lease, when the leaues are some faine and some sticking: as soone as you haue cut them vp, you shall cut away the leaues and small sprigs, yet not so nere that you hurt the Barke (for that by no meanes must be stirrd, as well for the strength of the Rodde, as for the colour, which being darke will

Of the top of  
the Angle-  
rod.

The Angle-  
rod of one  
piece.

not



not so soon catch the eye of the Fish, and offend them.) Then bringing your rods home, you shall lay them vpon a leuell floze, and pressing them downe with waights, to keepe them from warping, let them lye and season all the Winter: then in the Spring-time take them vp, for your purpose, which is onely to make the knots smooth, and to fire your loope of hayze to the vpper end. Now of these rodde the longest is the best, so it be straight and well growne, for most commonly they are so short that they will serue to fish with but in little narrow Brookes, or else in a Boat in great waters.

The Angle-rod of many pieces.

There be other Anglers, and many of the best and approvedst iudgements, which allow the Angle-rod of many pieces: as those which are made of Cane, each piece exceeding another one degree, in such euen proportion that being fired and thrust one within another they will shew as one euen and most straight rush-growne body, without any crookednesse or other outward euill fauourednesse: these pieces would not be aboue foure foote in length a piece, and three such pieces, which make twelue foote, are sufficient for the stocke of the Rodde, besides the toppe: now for those ends which are the sockets, into which you fire the other Canes, you shall hope them about with fine plates of Masse, an inch and an halfe broad, well sodered, and smoothly filed, which will keepe the Cane from cleauing: and for the toppe of this Rodde, the round Whalebone is thought the best, and surely in my conceit so it is, both for this or any other rodde whatsoeuer, for it is tough, strong, and most plyant: these Roddes most commonly are made to haue the small Canes thrust downe into the wide Canes, so that a man may walke with them as with a staffe, and when he pleaseth to draw them forth, and vse them as occasion shall be offered: the onely exception which is taken at these kinde of Roddes, is the bright colour of the Cane, which reflecting into the water, oft times scareth the Fish, and makes them afraid to bite. But if you fish in deepe and thicke waters, there



is no such matter, for the shadow of the Rodde is not discerned through the Sunne, onely in shallov and clere Brookes it is a little hinderance, and therefore hee which is a Master in this Art will Timber and darken the Rodde, by rubbing it ouer a gentle fire with a little Capons-grease, and brolvne of Spaine, mixt together.

Now for your Lines, you shall vnderstand that they are to be made of the strongest, longest, and best growne Horse hayre that can be got, not that which groweth on his Paine, nor vpon the vpper part or setting on of his tayle, but that which groweth from the middle and inmost part of his docke, and so extendeth it selfe downe to the ground, being the biggest and strongest hayres about the Horse: neither are these hayres to be gathered from poore, leane, and diseased Hades of little price or value, but from the fattest, soundest, and proudest Horse you can finde, for the best Horse hath euer the best hayre, neither would your hayres be gathered from Nagges, Mares, or Geldings, but from Stone-Horses onely, of which the blacke hayre is the worst, the white or gray best, and other colours indifferent: those Lines which you make for small Fish, as Gudgeon, Miltling, or Penow, would be composed of three hayres: those which you make for Pearch, or Trout, would be of five hayres: and those for the Chub or Barbell, would be of seauen: to those of three hayres you shall adde one threed of silke: to those of five two threeds of silke: and to those of seauen three threeds of silke: you shall twist you hayres neither too hard nor too slacke, but even so as they may twinde and couch close one within another and no more, without eyther snarling or gaping one from another: the ends you shall fasten together with a Fishers knot, which is your ordinary fast knot, folded foure times about, both vnder and aboue, for this will not lose in the water, but being drawne close together will continue when all other knots will faile, for a hayre being smooth and stiffe, will yeeld and goe backe if it be not artificially drawne together:

Of the Lines.



your ordinary Line would be betwæne thre and foure sadowe in length, yet, for as much as there is diuersities in the length of Rods, in the depth of waters, and in the places of standing to Angle in, it shall be good to haue Lines of diuers lengths, and to take those which shall be fittest for your purpose.

The colouring  
of Lines.

These Lines, though the naturall hayres, being white or gray, be not much offensive, yet it shall not be amisse to colour them according to the seasons of the yære, for so they will least scare the Fish, and soonest intise them to bite with most greedinesse: and of colours the best is the Water-græne, which you shall make after this manner: Take a pottell of Alome water, and put thereunto a great handfull of Marigolds, & let them boyle well till a yello w skumme rise vpon the water, then take halfe a pound of græne Coperas, and as much Verdigrease, beaten to fine pouder, and put it with the hayze into the water, and so let it boyle againe a pretty space, and then set it by to coole for halfe a day: then take out your hayze, and lay it where it may dry, and you shall see it of a delicate græne colour, which indeed is the best Watergræne that may be. This colour is excellent to Angle with in all clære waters where the Line lyes plaine and most discovered, and will continue from the beginning of the Spring to the beginning of Winter. Now if you will haue your Lines of a yello w colour, you shall boyle your hayze in Allome water, mixt only with Marigolds, & a handfull of Turmericke: but if you cannot get Turmericke, then you shall stampe so much of græne Walnut leaues, and mire it with the water, and steape your hayze therein twenty and foure houres at least. Lines of this colour are good to Angle with in waters that are clære, yet full of weeds, sedge, and such like, for it is not vnlike to the stalkes of these weeds, and it will well continue to Angle with all the first part of the Winter, as from befoze Michaelmas till after Christmas.

If you will haue your Lines of a Rustet colour, you shall



shall take a quarte of Alome-water, and as much Strong Lye, then put thereto a handfull of soote, and as much browne of Spaine, and after it hath boyld an houre or two, set it by to coole, and when it is colde steepe your hayze therein a day and a night, and then hang it vp to drye: these coloured Lines are good to Angle with in all deepe waters, whether they be Riuers or standing Pooles, as Ponds, and such like, and are most in vse from Christmas till after Easter. Now if you will haue your Lines of a Browne or Duskish colour, you shall take a pound of Amber, and halfe so much Soote, and seeth it in a pottle of Ale a good space, then when it is cold steepe your hayzes therein a day and a night, and then hang them vp to drye, and the colour will be perfect, yet euer the darker you would haue it, the more Amber put into it: these Lines are excellent to Angle with in waters that are blacke, deepe, and muddy, be they eyther running or standing waters, and will continue all seasons of the yere whatsoeuer, onely in bright waters they are too blacke, and cast too large a shadow. Lastly, if you would haue your Lines of a tawny colour (although in the water it sheweth almost all one with the other darker colours) you shall take Lime and Water, and mire it together, and steepe your hayze therein halfe a day, and then take it forth and steep it double so long time in Tanners ouze, and then hang it vp to drye, and the colour will be perfect: these Lines are best to Angle with in moorish and heathy waters, which are of a reddish colour, and will serue for that purpose all seasons of the yere: if with this colour, or the græne, you mire a silver threed it will not be amisse, and with the other colours a golde threed it is good also: and note, that at each end of your Line you make a loope, the one to fasten to the toppes of your Rodde, being the larger, and the other to fasten your hooke-Line vnto, which would be somewhat lesser.

After your Lines are made, you shall make your Corkes Of the Corkes.  
in this manner: take of the best and thickest Corkes you



can get, and with a fine Razor hauing pared it smooth on the outside, cut it into the fashion of a long Katherine Peere, bigge and round at the one end, and long and slender at the other, and according to the strength of your Line, so make your worke bigger or lesser, as for a Line of three hayzes, a Cozke of an inch and a halfe in length, and as much in compasse in the thickest part is bigge enough: and for a Line of more hayzes, a Cozke of more length, and compasse will become it: and indeed to speake truly for as much as it serueth, but onely for a direction to your eye to know when the fish byteth, & when you shall strike, the lesser your Cozke is, the better it is, and breedeth lesse affright in the water, in so much that many Anglers will fish without any Cozke, with a bare quill onely, but is not so certayne, nor giueth so sure direction as the Cozke doth. After you haue shaped your Cozke, you shall with a hot Iron boare a hole, long-wise, through the middle thereof, and into that hole thrust a quill, and through the quill draw your Line, and fasten them both together with a wedge of the hard end of the Goose feather: and note that both your quill and your wedge be white, for that breedeth least offence on the water, then place the smaller end of your Cozke downe towards your hooke, and the bigger end towards your red, that the smaller end, sinking downe with the hooke, the bigger may floate aloft and beare the quill upward, which when at any time, you see puld downe into the water, then you may safely strike, for it is an assured signe that the fish hath bitten. There be other Anglers which make their Cozkes in the fashion of a Pan-gigge, small at both endes, and bigge in the middle, and it is not much to be disliked, onely it is a little sooner apt to sinke, and you may thereby strike before the fish haue fully bitten. Others shape their Cozkes in the fashion of a whistle, or of a little Apple, round, flattish of both sides, and this Cozke is best to angle for the greatest fishes, because it being not so apt sinke, will floate till the hooke be fastened,



fastered, and that the fish beginneth to shut away with the bayte, so that a man then striking can seldeome or neuer lose his labour.

Next to your Coxkes is your hookes, and they be of diuers shapen and fashions, some bigge, some little, some betwene both, according to the fish at which you angle, the best substance wherof to make them, is either old Spanissh Needles, or else strong Wyer drawne as nere as may be to that hight of temper, which being nealed and alayde in the fire, you may bend and bow at your pleasure. Now for the best softning of your wyre, if you make your hookes of old Needles, you shall neede but to hold them in the blaze of a Candle till they be red hot, and then let them cole of themselves, and they will be soft, and plyant enough, but if you make your hookes of strong Spanissh Wyer, you shall roule it round, and then lay it vpon burning Char-coales, turning it vp and downe till it be all red hot in euery place, then let it gently cole of it selfe, and it will be soft enough. Now for the making of your hookes, I aduise you to goe to such as are the best reputed for making of them, and buy of all sorts of hookes from the biggest to the least, that is to say, from that which taketh the Roach, to that which taketh the Salmon, and let them lye before you for examples: then looke of what sort of hookes you intend to make, and with a fine file, first make the poynt of your hooke, which would neyther be too sharpe, for then it will catch hold of euery thing, when it should not, nor too blunt, least it sayle to take hold when there is occasion: therefore in that obserue a meane, making it lesse sharpe then a fine Needle, and more sharpe then a small pinne. When you haue made the poynt then with a thynne knife of a very good edge, you shall cut out and raise vp the beard which you shall make greater or lesse, according to the bignesse of the hooke, and the strength of the Wyer: for you must by no meanes cut the beard so deepe, that thereby you weaken the hooke, but it must be as strong in that place as any other. When

Of Angle  
hookes.



the point and bearded is made, you shall with a fine payze of round Wylpers turne and compasse the hooke about, making it round, circular-wise, being somewhat more then a semicircle, and ener obserue that the rounder the compasse or bought commeth in, that so much the better proportioned the hooke is. This done, you shall leaue as much as you thinke conuenient for the shanke, and then cut it off from the rest of the Wylper: which done, you shall beate the end downe flat, and somewhat broader then the rest, and so polliish and smoothe it all ouer, then heating it redde hot in a little panne of Charcoales put it sodainly into the water, and quench it, which will bring your hooke to a full strength and hardnesse. Thus you see how to make hookes of all sizes and shapes, whether they be single or double hookes, for, although the quantities alter, yet the shapes doe not, and the double hookes which is, the Pike-hooke is no other, but two single hookes all of one Wylper, turned contrarie wayes: and this double hooke must not haue the line first vnto it, but a strong Wylper loynted vnto it of three inches long, well wound about and warped with a smaller Wylper: then to it another Wylper of the same length, as if they were two seuerall linkes loynted together, and then the line fixed to the last linke, and therefore are called armed hookes, for they defend the line from shearing or cutting in peeces with the teeth of the Pyke.

Now for your single hookes you shall thus fixe them to your lines, take a length of your twisted haires, contayning that number which is fit for the hooke, and hauing made a strong loope at the one end, lay the other end where is no bought vpon the inside of your hooke, then with a strong red silke, epyther single or double, according to the bignesse of the hooke being well wareed, whippe and warp the hooke round about as thicke, close, and straight as may be, in such sort as you see men whip their bow-strings, and in the same manner make the ends of your silke fast: then with a payze of Syzers cut the silke

and



and hayres off close by the hooke, and you may be sure that they will not loose one from another with any reasonable violence. After your hooke is thus fastened to your line, you shall then plumbe your line, which is to fixe certaine peeces of Lead, according to the bignesse of your line about it, some being in length a quarter of an inch, some halfe an inch, some bigger, and some lesse, according to the waight of your hooke, and bignesse of your Cozke, for these plumets are but onely to carry downe your hooke, and lay it in the bottome, neyther being so heauie to make the Cozke sincke, nor so light as not with the smallest touch to make the Cozke dip into the water: you shall vnderstand that your first plumet would be twelue or foureteene inches from the hooke, the rest not aboue one inch distance one from another, not being aboue fise or seauen at the most, allbe some anglers vse nine, and some more, as their fancies rules them. There is in plumbing of lines thre seuerall fashions of plumets vled, as one long, another square, and the third in a Diamond forme, but all tending to one end, haue but one vse, and the long ones are accounted the best, so that they be neatly set to, and the ends smoothe and close laid downe, so that they tangle not the line by catching hold vpon Weedes, or other trash in the bottome of the water.

Thus haue you seene the best choise of Rods, Lines, Cozkes, and Hookes, and how to fixe and couple them altogether to doe their seuerall offices, it now resteth that we speak of other necessary implements, which should accompany the painefull Angler, and they be these: he shall besides these before spoken of, haue a large Pusket bullet, through which hauing fired a double twisted threed, and thereof made a strong loope, he may at his pleasure hang it vpon his hooke, and therewith sound the depth of euery water, and so know how to plumbe his lines, and place his Cozke in their due places: then he shall haue a larger ring of Lead, fixe inches at least in compasse, and made fast to a small long line, through which, thrusting your

Of other implements for Anglers.



your Angle rod, and letting it fall downe into the water by your hayze line, it will helpe to vnloose your hooke if it be fastned eyther vpon wædes or other stones in the water. Then he shall haue a fine smoth broad of some curious wood for shoe sake, being as bigge as a trencher, and cut battlement-wise at each end: on which he shall fold his seuerall lines. His hookes he shall haue in a dye close bore: he shall haue a little badge of red cloath, to carry his wormes in, and mire with them a little fresh Mould and Fenell: then he shall eyther haue a close stopt horne, in which he shall keepe Maggots, Bobbes, Palmers, and such like, or a hollow Cane, in which he may put them, and Scarrabs: he shall haue a close bore for all sorts of line flies, and another for Puddles, Silke, Thred, Ware, and loose hayzes, then a roule of pitcht thred to mend the Angle-rod withall, if it chance to breake, a file a knife, a Pouch with many Purses, in which you may place all your implements seuerally. Lastly, you shall haue a little fine wanded Pebbe to hang by your side, in which you shall put the fish which you catch, and a small round net fastned to a poales end, wherewith you may land a Pike or other great fish: to haue also a little Boat or Cot, if you Angle in great waters to carry you by and downe, to the most conuenientest places for your pastime, is also right necessary, and fit for an Angler: And thus I haue shewed you the substance of the Anglers instruments.

## CHAP. III.

Of the Anglers apparrell and inward qualities.



Tuching the Anglers apparrell (for it is as respect as necessary as any other whatsoever) it would by no meanes be garrish, light coloured, or shining, for whatsoever with a glit



glittering hue reflecteth vpon the water, immediately it frighteth the Fish, and maketh them flye from his presence, no hunger being able to tempt them to bite, when their eye is offended: and of all Creatures there is none more sharpe sighted then Fishes are. Let then your apparell be plaine and comely, of darke colour, as Russet, Tawny, or such like, close to your body, without any new fashioned fashions, or hanging sleeves, wauing loose, like sayles, about you, for they are like Winks which will ever chase your game farre from you: let it for your owne health and ease sake, be warme and well lyned, that neither the coldnesse of the ayre, nor the moistnesse of the water may offend you: keepe your head and feet drye, for from the offence of them springeth Agues, and worse infirmities.

Anglers apparel.

Now for the inward qualitties of the minde, albe some Writers reduce them into twelue heads, which indeed whosoever inioyeth cannot chuse but be very compleat in much perfection, yet I must draw them into many more branches. The first, and most especiall whereof, is, that a skilfull Angler ought to be a generall Scholler, and sene in all the liberall Sciences, as a Gramarian, to know how eyther to Write or discourse of his Art in true termes, eyther without affectation or rudenesse. He should haue sweetnesse of speech, to perswade and intice or ther to delight in an exercise so much laudable. He should haue strength of arguments, to defend and maintaine his profession against enuy or slander. He should haue knowledge in the Sunne, Moone, and Starres, that by their aspects he may guesse the seasonablenesse or unseasonablenesse of the weather, the breeding of fozmes, and from what coastes the Windes are ever deliuered. He should be a good knower of Countreys, and well bled to high wayes, that by taking the readiest pathes to euery Lake, Brooke, or Riuer, his iourneyes may be more certaine, and lesse wearisome. He should haue knowledge in proportions of all sorts, whether Circular, square, or

Anglers vertues.



Diametricall, that when he shall be questioned of his diurnall progresse, he may giue a Graphicall description of the Angles and Channels of Riuers, how they fall from their heads, and what compasses they fetch in their severall windings. Hee must also haue the perfect Art of Pumbryng, that in the sounding of Lakes, or Riuers, hee may know how many foot or inches each severally containeth, and by adding, subtracting, or multiplying the same, hee may yeld the reason of euery Riuer, swift or slow current. Hee would not be vnskillfull in Musique, that whensoever eyther melancholy, heavinesse of thought, or the perturbations of his owne fancies stirreth vp sadnesse in him, he may remoue the same with some godly Hymne or Antheme, of which Dauid giues him ample examples. Hee must be of a well settled and constant beliefe, to enjoy the benefit of his expectation, for then to dispayze it were better neuer to put in practise: and hee must euer thinke where the waters are pleasant and likely, that there the Creator of all things hath stored vp much of his plenty: and though your satisfaction be not as ready as your wishes, yet you must hope still, that with perseuerance you shall reape the fulnesse of your Harvest: then he must be full of loue, both to his pleasure and to his neighbour: to his pleasure, which otherwise would be irksome and tedious, and to his neighbour that he neither giue offence in any particular, nor be guilty of any generall destruction: then hee must be exceeding patient, and neither bere nor excruciate himselfe with losses or mischances, as in losing the pray when it is almost in the hand, or by breaking his Tooles by ignorance or negligence, but with a pleased sufferance amend errours, and thinke mischances instructions to better carefulnesse. Hee must then be full of humble thoughts, not disdainning when occasion commands to kneele, lye downe, or wet his feet or fingers, as oft as there is any aduantage giuen thereby, to the gaining the end of his labour. Then he must be strong and valiant, neither to be amased with stormes, nor affrighted  
with

with Thunder, but to holde them according to their naturall causes, and the pleasure of the highest: neither must he, like the Fore which prayeth vpon Lambes, imploy all his labour against the smaller frye, but like the Lyon that eazeth Elephants, thinke the greatest Fish which swimmeth, a reward little enough for the paines which he endureth. Then must he be liberall, and not working onely for his owne belly, as if it could neuer be satisfied: he must with much cheerefulnesse bestow the fruits of his skill amongst his honest neighbours, who being partners of his gaine, will doubly renewe his triumph, and that is euer a pleasing reward to vertue. Then must he be prudent, that apprehending the reasons why the Fish will not bite, and all other casual impediments which hinder his sport, and knowing the remedies for the same, he may direct his labours to be without troublesomnes: then he must haue a moderate contentation of minde, to be satisfied with indifferent things, and not out of an auaricious greedinesse thinke euery thing too little, be it neuer so abundant: then must he be of a thankfull nature, praising the Author of all goodnesse, and shewing a large gratefulnesse for the least satisfaction: then must hee be of a perfect memory, quicke, and prompt to call into his minde all the needfull things which are any way in his exercise to be employed, least by omission of any, he frustrate his hopes, and make his labour effectlesse. Lastly, he must be of a strong constitution of body, able to endure much fasting, and not of a gnawing stowacke, obseruing houres, in which if it be unsatisfied, it troubleth both the minde and body, and loseth that delight which maketh the pastime onely pleasing.

Thus hauing shewed the inward vertues and qualities which should accompany a perfect Angler, it is meet now to giue you certaine Cautions, which being carefully obserued, you shall with more ease obtaine the fulnesse of your desires. First therefore, when you goe to Angle,

Cautions.



you shall obserue that all your Toles, Lines, or Imple-  
ments be (as the Seaman saith) yare, fit, and ready, for  
to haue them raveled, ill made, or in vnreadinesse, they are  
great hinderances to your pleasure. Then looke that your  
baits be good, sweet, fine, and agreeing with the season:  
for if they be otherwise vnproper in any of their natures,  
they are vleslesse, and you had bene better at home then  
by the Riuer. Then you must not Angle in vnseasonable  
times, for the Fish not being inclined to bite, it is a strange  
intisement that can compell them: then you must be care-  
full neither by your apparell, motions, or too open standing  
to giue afright to the Fish, for when they are scared they  
flye from you, and you seeke societie in an empty house.  
Then must you labour in cleere and vntroubled waters,  
for when the Brooks are white, muddy, and thicke, either  
through inundations or other trouble, it is impossible to  
get any thing with the Angle: then to respect the temper  
of the weather, for extreame winde or extreame colde ta-  
keth from Fish all manner of appetite: so doth likewise  
too violent heat, or raine that is great, heauy, and beating,  
or any stormes, Snowes, Hayles, or blustings, especially,  
that which commeth from the East, which of all is the  
worst: those which blow from the South are best, and  
those which come from the North or West are indiffe-  
rent: many other obseruations there are, but they shall  
follow in their due places.

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#### CHAP. IIII.

Of the best and worst seasons to Angle in, and their vses.



Before I direct you in the best seasons, and  
their contrary, for the generall Art of  
Angling, I thinke it not amisse, a little  
by the way, to giue you a glaunce or spe-  
culation how to order your body and Art  
at each seuerall water: for the manner  
of

The Anglers  
manner of  
standing.

of your standing, and concealing of your selfe, is a matter all and chiefe poynt in this Art. Know then, that if you Angle in any Ponde or standing Water, you shall before you fall to your businesse, with your Plumb, sound the water in diuers places, and where you finde it deepest, blackest, and least transparent, there you shall stand to Angle, placing your selfe vnder the banke, and if it be possible, so as your shadow may be carryed from the water: for you must at no time, if you can chuse, let your shadow lye vpon the water: and although in these deepe places your standing open or close, are eyther of them reckoned indifferently, because the waters depth is a sufficient concealment, yet the closer you stand is accounted amongst Anglers most handsome and artificiall. But if you goe to Angle at the Riuer, then the best place to cast in your Line, is where it is deepest and clearest, so as you may behold the Sand or Grauell at the bottome: and in these places you shall strive to conceale your selfe as much as is possible, as standing behinde Poplars, Oriers, or other Trees, or vnder the couert of some Banke, Rocks, or other ruins at the side of the Riuer: also in couert places, where are many Weedes, roots of Trees, and other rubbush, is good Angling, but very troublesome, for Fish lying there warme & in safety, will haue great reioyt therevnto, and bite freely, so that the Angler must be carefull in the putting in of his hooke, and very deliberate in striking, least doing any thing rashly, he breake his Line and Hooke, being neuer so little entangled. It is good also to Angle in Whirle-poles, for they being like pits within the Riuers, are seldome unfurnished of the greatest Fishes: also, it is good to Angle at the falls of Waters, as vnder Bridges, standing behinde the Pavones and Arches, or at the flood-gates of Milles, being hid with the higher Timbers. And generally where you see the Water is deepest, clearest, and calmest, being least troubled with winde or weather, is the fittest place to Angle in. Other obseruations there are, but they wil follow in more necessary places.



The best seasons to Angle in.

To returne then to our first purpose. You shall know the best seasons to Angle in, is from Aprill till the end of October, speaking of the generall vse of the pleasures: and the best houres also in generall account, are from foure in the morning till nine, and from thre in the afternoon till after fve in the Evening, the winde blowing from South, West, or North, and the ayre temperate, inclined to warmenesse: but to speake of particular observations of seasons, know, that if the day be darke, close, and lowring, or haue a gentle whistling winde playing vpon the water, it is good to Angle in, and the Fish will byte with pleasure: nay, if a fine misting dew of rayne fall gently, without violence, they will bite then the faster: also, after floods are gone away, and the Riuers are come within their owne bankes, their first cleerenesse recovered, and the water pure, then it is good to Angle. And generally for your Summer Angling chuse the coldest time of the day, for in the heat of the day Fish betake themselves to their rest, and will neyther bite nor play. But for your Winter Angling, which is from October to Aprill, you shall not make any difference of time, if the weather be calme, for all houres of the Sunne are alike, onely the none-tide or mid-day is most preferred, especially in Ponds, and standing waters. If the water where you Angle, ebbe or flow, the best time of Angling is held to be in the ebbe: yet in some places where the Tyde is not great, there the flood is preferred. Lastly, whensoever you see the Trout play or leape aboue the water, and the Pike that in pursuit of other Fishes, it is then a very good time to Angle in, vsing such baits as are then meete for the month and season, as shall be shewed hereafter.

Seasons ill to Angle in.

Now for those seasons which are naught to Angle in, there is none worse then in the violent heate of the day, or when the Winds are lowdest, Rayne heauiest, Snow and Hail extreamest: Thunder and Lightning are offensive, or any sharpe ayre which dyeth from the East: the places where men vse to walk Shéepe you shall forbear,

beare, for the very smell of the woul will chase fish from their haunts. Land-floods are enemies to Anglers, so also at the fall of the leafe is the shedding of leaues into the water, and many other such like polutions, of which wee will speake something moze hereafter.

Wherefore, to conclude this Chapter, and to shew you as well how to finde your fish, as the Art to take it being found, you shal know that the Carpe, Cele, and Tench, doe euer haunt muddy places: the first, which is the Carpe, lyeth euer in the depth and bottome thereof: the Tench, among the wædes and rootes of Sedges, and the Cele vnder stones, blockes, or the rootes of Trees.

Of Fishes  
haunts.

The Breame, the Cheauin, and the Pyke, haunt euer in the cleare and sandie bottome, the Pyke where you see great store of small frye: the Cheauin where the streame runneth swiftest, and the shade is greatest, and the Breame where the water is broadest, and the depth giueth greatest liberty; and generally these three sorts of fish delight moze in standing waters then in running Ri- uers, although the ancient Proverbe is,

Ancome Ele, and Witham Pyke,  
In all England is none syke.

which are Ri- uers in Lincolne-shire. Now the Salmon hath his haunt in the swiftest and broadest Ri- uers, whose Channels fall downe into the Sea: the Trout loneth smaller brookes, whose currant is swift, cleare and grauel- ly, and euer hath his lodging in the deepest holes that are therein, and the Pearch haunteth Ri- uers of the same nature, onely he abideth most in the crækes and hollow- nesses, which are about the banke, and indeede these three fishes generally, Salmon, Trout, and Pearch, loue cleare streames, being græne with wædes, and the bottoms hard with grauell and pibble.

The Gudgeon, the Loach, and the Bul-head, haunt euer shallowest places, and where streames are slow, yet trans- parent:



parent : The Warbell, Koch, Dace, and Kuffe, haunt the deepe shade places of those brookes which are mixt with more sand than grauell, or where the clay is firme, and not limfe, and delight euer to lye vnder the shadowes of trees, bꝛambles or other things growing from the banke. The Luce or Lucerne, which in deede is but the ouer-growne Pyke, haunteth the broad and large Meares, which are miles in compasse, being deepe and still, and euer lodgeth in the bottome thereof amongst the roots and tufts of Sedge and Bulrushes, being quiet and least troubled. The Humber haunts the clayie Riuer of hye Countreies, where the soyle is rich and full of Marle, or in Lakes and Ponds of the same nature. The Shade and Twear, haunt those waters which are blackish, deepe, and accustomed to ebbe and flow, and where they haunt there commonly also is found both the Mullet and the Squant, all which loue to lodge close and flat at the bottome of the water, so it be more Doze then grauell.

Obiection.

But here now me thinkes I heare the curious reprehend me, saying, that if these rules should be infallible, that then no Riuer or Pond could contayne about three sorts of fish onely, when daily experience sheweth vs, that some Riuers haue tenne, some twentie, and some thirtie, as the Trent : for example, whose ancient name in the French is *Trianta*, in Latine *Triginta*, and in English thirtie, deriued from this ground, because there standeth vpon her thirtie Castles, thirtie Market towones, and are in her thirtie seuerall sorts of fishes.

Answer.

To which I thus answer, that forasmuch as into most Riuers falleth many seuerall waters, and many soyles, according to the nature of those Countreies, through which the Channels runne, that therefore euery alteration of soyle may alter the breeds of fye, and many seuerall kindes may be in one Streame, so that the Angler in the choyse of his pastime in such places, must eyther haue a perfect knowledge how the soyles doe alter (which hee may commonly know by the Banks.) or else relye vpon  
his

his experience, which will be the best Tutor to direct him to the haunts of severall fishes; but for Ponds or standing waters which are of one earth, there you shall finde the best prosper which are before rehearsed.

## C H A P. V.

Of Baytes in generall, and of euery particular kinde: their Seasons, Vse and Preseruations.



Since I haue thus farre orderly passed ouer the outward and instrumentall necessities appertayning to this modest recreation, shewing the severall tooles and implements which are to be imploied therein, and haue also shewed the inward and mentall knowledge which should be harboured in his brest that will be an Angler: I will now proceede to speake of the Baytes and inticements, which are the agents and effecters of our desires in this pastime, without which all other employments are vaine & vbleesse: for what doth it auaille to haue all other things in perfection, when this, which is the strength and life of the rest, is eyther imperfect or defectiue: To speake then generally of Baytes, they are diuided into three kindes, which are, liue-baytes, dead-baytes, and Baytes liuing but in apparence onely. Your liue-bayts are wormes of all kindes. especially the red worme, the Maggot, the Bobbe, the Dore, browne Flies, Frogs, Grasshoppers, Hornets, Wasps, Bees, Snayles, small Roches, Bleakes, Gudgins or Loches. Your dead baytes are pasts of all maner kindes, young brood of Wasps dyed or vndyed, the closterd blood of Sheepe, Cheese, Bramble-berries, Corne, Sides, Cherries, and such like. And your Baytes which seeme to liue, yet are dead, are Flies of all sorts and shapes, made of silke and feathers about your hookes,



which will serue for every season through the yere, and being by your line moued vpon the water, seeme to be liue Flies, which the fish with great greedinesse will catch by and deuoure.

Seasons.

Now for the seasons, in which these baytes are most profitable, you shall vnderstand that the red-worme will serue for small fish all the yere long: the Maggot is good in Iuly, the Wobbe and Dore in May, the blowne Flies in Iune, Frogges in March, Grasshoppers in September, Hornets in Iuly, Waspes & Bees in Iuly, Snaples in August. For the Roche, Bleake, or Gudgeon, they serue the Wythe at any season: all Baits are good in May, Iune, and Iuly: dyed Waspes in May: Shæpes-bloud and Chæse in Aprill: for Bramble berries, Cozne and Seedes, they are good at the fall of the leafe. Lastly, for your dead Flies, which are most proper for the Trout or Grayling, you shall know that the Dun flye is good in March, being the lesser, but the greater Dun flye will serue the latter end of February: the Stone flye is good in Aprill, the Red flye, and the Yellow flye in May, the Blacke flye, the darke Yellow flye, and the Moxish flye in Iune, the Tawny flye part in May, and part of Iune, the Waspe flye, and the Shell flye in Iuly, and the clowdie darke-flye in August.

Of Flyes.

The making  
of Flyes.

Now for the making of these flyes, the cloudie darke flye is made of blacke wooll, clipt from betwene a Shæpes eares, and whipt about with blacke silke, his wings of the vnder mayle of the Mallard, and his head made blacke and sutable, fired vpon a fine peece of Cozke, and solded so cunningly about the hooke, that nothing may be perceiued but the poynt and beard onely. The Shell flye is made of fine Greene flore, and the wings of the wings of a Pew-glead: the Waspe flye is made of blacke wooll, lapt about with yellow silke, and the wings of the downe of a Buzzard: the Tawny flye is made of tawny wooll, and the wings set one contrary to another, and made of the white downe of a Widgeon: the Moxish flye is made

of

of fine flockes, shorne from a freese-gray ruffet, and the wings of the blackest male of a Drake: the bright yellow flye is made of yellow wooll, and his wings of a red Cockes yellow mayne: the sad yellow flye is made of blacke wooll, with a twisted yellow silke, like a list, whipt downe on eyther side, & the wings of the wings of a Buzzard, set on with black threed: the black flye is made of black wooll, and lapt about with the herle of the Peacocks tayle, his wings with the browne feathers of the Mallard, and some of his blew feathers on his head: the red flye is made of red wooll, lapt about with blacke silke, and the wings of the male of a Mallard, with some of the red feathers of a Capon, the stone flye is made of blacke wooll made yellow vnder the wings, and vnder the tayle with silke, and the wings, of Drakes downe: the greater dunne flye is made of blacke wooll, and his wings of the dunne feathers of a Drakes tayle; the lesser dun flye is made of dunne wooll, and his wings of the male of a Partridge.

Now for the shapen and proportions of these flyes, it is impossible to discribe them without paynting, therefore you shall take of these severall flyes alieue, and laying them before you, trie how neare your Art can come unto nature by an equall shapen and mixture of colours; and when you haue made them, you may keepe them in close boxes vncrushed, and they will serue you many yeeres.

Now for the preservation and keeping of your quicke baytes (for longer then they are neate and sweet they are not good:) you shall vnderstand, that they must not be kept altogether, but euery kinde severall by it selfe, and nourished with such comforts as it delighteth in, when it is at liberty, or with such things as they breaede in or vpon when they are first taken. And first for the red worme: when you take them, you shall put them into a bagge of red cloath, and chopping a handfull of Fennell, mixe it with halfe so much fresh mould, being blacke and fertile, and they will both line and scower therein: there be some Anglers which put wet Masse, both vnder and aboue

Preseruation  
of Baytes.



them: others put Parceleys, or sweet Marioram vnto them, but the former way is the best, so you obserue euery night to renew their earth, or once in two dayes to refresh them with a little new Dre dung, and thus you may keepe them tow moneths without imperfection: for the great white Paggots, you shall mire with them Shéepe tallow, or little bits of a beasts liuer: the best way to scolme them, is to put them into a bagge of blanketting, with Sand, and hang them where they may haue the ayre of the fire, or other warmth, for the space of an houre or two. For Frogges and Grasshoppers, you shall keepe them in wet mosse, and long grasse, moistened euery night with water, and when you Angle with them you shall cut off their legges by the knees, and the grasshoppers wings neere to the body, for other wormes, as the Bobbe, Cadis-worme, Canker, and such like, you shall keepe them with the same things you finde them vpon: and for all line Flies you shall vse them as you take them, only the Waspe, the Hornet, and Bumble Bee, which is without sting, you shall first dye them a little in a warme Ouen after the Bread is drawne, and then dip all their heads into Shéepe blood, and then dry them againe, and so keepe them in a close bore, and they will continue two or three months in all good perfection.

Of making  
Pastes.

Now lastly, to speake of your made baites, which are Pastes, the most of them will last the whole yere, and as they be diuers, so I will shew you how to compound euery one of them in his true and perfect nature. First, to make Pastes that shall last the longest, you shall take Beane-flower, and those parts of the Conyes legge which is called the Almond of the Cony: or if it be of a fat yong Whelpe, or a Cat, it is as good: and to these put a like quantitie of Virgin-Ware, and Shéepe suet, and then beat them together in a Morter, till they be made one body, then with a little clarified Hony temper it befoze the fire, and so make it vp in round balls, and it will last all the yere, and the vse thereof is, when you Angle, to baite

baite your hooke therewith, and not any Fish which swimmeth in fresh waters but will greedily bite thereat.

There is also another Paste which is of equall qualitie and vse with this, and will last as long, and that is to take the Kidney-Tallow of a Sheepe, and as much young Cheese, and beat them in a Morter till they be one body, then adde to them as much Wheate-flower as will bring it to an exceeding stiffe paste, then kneade it before the fire, and allay the stiffenesse with life Hony, and so make it vp into Bals. The vse of this Paste is like the former. Take the bloud of a Sheepe, and of Hony like quantitie, and beate them together with a lump of fresh Cheese, then with the fine grated crummes of white Bread, worke them into a stiffe paste, and so role it vp in bals, and when you Angle doe not baite your hooke therewith, but now and then cast little pellets thereof into the water, and it will intise the Fish to resort vnto you, and to bite with great greedinesse. There be others which take Bread crummes, and beat them in a Morter with ripe Cherryes (the Stones being taken out) till it come to a stiffe Paste, and then knead it vp into bals, and vse it as you doe that which was last recited: it is most approued and very excellent for all sorts of Fish in fresh waters.

Lastly, if you take Venice Turpentine, nine times walcht, and beaten, and mire it with as much life Hony, and then dissolue them in the oyle of Polypody, and so keepe it in a close glasse: then when you Angle, annoynt your baite but with this confection, and though the weather be neuer so vnseasonable, or the Fish neuer so ill disposed to bite, yet be sure you shall not lose your labour, but take, when all men else faile of their purpose, for the secret hath bene rarely approued, and hitherto hath bene maintained with great secrecie. And thus much for baites and their Vses.



## CHAP. VI.

Of Angling for euery seuerall kinde of Fish, according to their natures.

Of the Good-  
gin, Roch, and  
Dace.



**N**ow to shew you how you shall Angle most properly for euery seuerall Fish, with true Art, according to the Nature of the Fish, I thinke it not amisse first to beginne with the Goodgin, Roch, and Dace, which being Fishes of eager bit, most foolish, least afrightfull, and soonest deceived, are the first fittest prizes for young Scholars, and such as are but learners in the Art of Angling, for the easinesse of their gaping will not onely settle an vndetermined minde, but giue vnto ignorance both comfort and encouragement. If then you will Angle for any of these small Fishes in great streames, it shall be meet to take a Boat, and finding the places of their haunt, which is commonly in sandy cleere waters, and where they runne swiftely, there Angle for them with your smallest hookes, well leaded, and smallest Lines, well Cozct. Your hooke would rather dragge then be an inch from the bottome, and your best baite is the Redde-worme, Codde-worme, Puggot, clottered blood of Sheepe cut in little bits, or else the white Spawne or broode of Waspes: and euer as soone as you see the Cozke stirre, sodainely strike, for they will ye nibling at the baite, and finding the hooke, forsake it. If you Angle for them in small Brookes, you shall stand vnder Bridges, at the falles of Milles, behinde Poplars, or Mytters, or any where, where the streame runneth deepe and swift: and euer note, that when your bit failes, you remove your place, and seeke out a new standing, and with all forget not, euer when you Angle for any of these fish, to cast in some of your PASTE before your hooke, for this will

will make your sport much more abundant: and although the Dace, out of his owne nature, biteth high and nere the toppe of the water, yet these baits and intisements will make him stope and be taken easly.

If you will Angle for the Carpe, you must haue a strong rodde, and a strong Line, of at least seauen or nine hayres, and eyther mixt with a Greene or watched silke: your worke must be large, long, and smoth: your Leads smoth and close, and fitt nere the hooke, and the hooke of almost a threepenny compasse. He is very dainty to bite but at some especiall houres, as very earely in the morning, or very late at night, and therefore he must be very much entised with Paste: his best bayts are the Gossewoorme, the reddewoorme, or the Penow, for he seldome refuseth them. The Cadiswoorme is good for him in June, and the Magot, Blackeworme, or Crathopper, in July, August and September. If you make him Paste of soure Ale, whites of Egges, and Bread-Crummes, it will very much intise him: also, I would euer wish you befoze you fish for the Carpe, to cast in a handfull of white Bread chippings into the Pond or Riuer, for they will not onely intise him to your bayt, but also giue you notice if you be nere his haunt, for you shall presently heare him smacke aboue the water, and then if you misse him, eyther your fortune or skill is not good.

Of the Carpe.

If you will Angle for the Chub, Cheuin, or Trout, all your Instruments must be strong and good: your rodde darke and discoloured, your line strong, but small and short, your hooke of a two-penny compasse, and if you Angle with a Flye, then, nor Lead, nor Cozke, nor Quill, if otherwise, then all of a handsome and sutable proportion. The best standing to take them is in close and concealed places, as behinde Trees, Wallies, or Arches of Bridges: their haunts are in clere waters which run vpon Sand or Grauell, and they are in best season from March till Michaellmas: if you Angle for them with dead Flies, without Lead or Cozke, I haue shewed you

Of the Chub,  
Cheuin, or  
Trout.



in the former Chapter, the severall flies for each severall month; but if you angle for them with other baytes, then you must have both Cozke and Lead, for he will bite nere the bottome, yet sometimes you may angle for him with a small Wenow hangd at your hooke by the neather parts, without Cozke or Lead, and so draw the bayte vpon the top of the water, and both with it, and with euery fly, strike rather befoze then after he biteth. If you angle for him at the ground in March, Aprill, May and September, the Wenow is a good bayte, so is the Stone-fly, Cadis worzme, Bobbe, red worzme, ditch canker, young Frogges, the worzme that breedeth on the Ozier leafe and the Docke-canker mixt together. In June Crickets and Doze-flies are good: In July the Grasshopper is good, so is the humble Bee, dyed Waspes or dyed Hornets, or any of their young brode in the Combes. In August flying Wismires are good, so is the Colwort-worzme, or the Waggot, and in September eyther Cherries, Pice befoze they hane hayze, or the great Sow worzme.

Of the Ele

I now will angle for the Ele, the best place is at Weares, Mill-ponds, bzidges, hollow bankes, or any swift falling water: your Line strong, and not aboue two elles in length, and very heauily plumde, a good round Hooke, but no Cozke, because you must not strike till the Ele plucke: neyther must you by any meanes pull hastily, but holding your Line stricke, with labour & patience tire him, least that tearing his chaps, you loose him. The best bayte is the red worzme, or little peeces of Sheepes guts.

Of the Floun-  
der & Sewant.

The Flounder and Sewant are greedie biters, yet very craftie: for they will nibble and sucke at a bayt a good while befoze they swallow it, and if they perceiue the hooke, they will flye from it: therefore to make them more hastie of the baite, you must euer be mouing your line, and seldome let it lye still. They lye most commonly in the deepest places of the Riuer where the water is stillest, and runneth

runneth with least force : also they lye neare unto the banke , and delight most in the streame, which is brackish, and mixt with the salt water. Your Line must be strong, and well plumbde neere to the hooke : and the best bayte is the red Worme , and the young brood of Waspes.

The Barbell, or Grayling, which some call the Amber, are very subtill and craftie fishes : therefore you must be carefull that your baytes be swete and new, and when you angle for them, doe in all things as you doe for the Trout, for they bite aloft in the Summer, and at the bottome in the Winter. Your lines must be extraordinarily strong, and your hooke of a three-penny Compass, for they are fishes of waightie bodies, and when they are strooke must haue liberty to play, and tyer themselves, or else they will indanger the breaking of your rod , and therefore your line must be of the longest size.

Of the Grayling or Barbell.

The best season to angle for the Breame, is from the latter end of February till September, he is a lusty strong fish, and therefore your toles must be good, the baytes in which he most delighteth is in wormes of all sorts, Butterflies, greene flies, paste of bread crummes, or the brood of Waspes.

Of the Breame

The Tench is a fish that euer loueth the bottome of Riuers, where the Dole or Mudde is thickest: and is most fit to be angled for in the height of Summer, for at other seasons he is not apt to bite, & at all times he is very daintie. The baytes in which he delighteth most, is pastes that are very sweet, and the browner the better, especially if it be made with the bloud of a sheepe. At the great Red-worme also hee will bite, and so much the sooner if you mire them with this paste: the Maggot and dried Waspe he will seldome refuse, chiefly being dipt in honey.

Of the Tench.

The Bleake, Ruffe, and Perch are fishes which bite neyther hye nor low, but for the most part in the midst of the water, therefore your line must be very lightly plumbde,

Of the Bleake, Ruffe, and Perch.



plumbde, and farre from the hooke. The bayts which most intice them, besides the Red-worme, is the house-fly in the Summer, & the fat of Bacon in the Winter: in April they will bite well at the Hob-worme or Maggot, and in all other seasons they seldome refuse any worme or canker. Your Line would be small, and well armed from the hooke a handfull with small Wyer, for the teeth of the Perch will else gnaw it a sunder.

Of the Pyke.

The Pike is a fish of great strength and waight, in so much that you can hardly haue a Line of hayre to hold him, therefore your best Anglers vse most commonly a Chaulke line, your Angle-rod also must haue no small top, but be all of one peece and bignesse, and the line made exceeding fast for slipping: your hooke would be of the strongest Wyer, white or yellow, and made double, the poynts turning two contrary waies, and then armed with strong Wyer a foote at least: his best bayte is a small Roch, Dace or Menow, the hooke being put in at the tayle, and comming forth vnder the Gills, and you must seldome or neuer let your bayte lye still in the water, but draw it vp and downe, as though the fish did moue in the water, and fled from the Pyke, for this will make him more eager and hastie to bite: and hauing bit, you must be sure to tyze him well before you take him vp. The yelloe line Frogge is also an excellent bayte for the Pyke, for you must vnderstand, that they naturally delight not in any dead or vinnouing foode.

Of Snickling  
the Pyke.

There be some which take great delight to snickell or halter the Pyke, which is good when Pikes are broke out of Ponds or Riuers, and come into little small ditches or rundels, as is oft to be scene in low countries. The way then to halter them is, first to finde the Pyke where hee lyeth (which in the heat of the day, you may easily doe) then take your Chaulke-line, and making a large running noze thereof, put it gently into the water, about two foot before the nose of the Pyke, then when you see it touch the ground, cause one to goe behinde the Pyke, and with a poale

poale to stirre him, then as he shutteth, mæte him with your noze, and so with a sobaine and quicke Jerke throw him vpon the land. In this sport you must be very readie, nimble, and quicke sighted, for if you giue him the least time, he will escape you.

Now lastly, touching the angling for the Salmon, albe he is a fish which in truth is vnfit for your trauell, both because he is too huge and cumbersome, as also in that he naturally delighteth to lie in the bottomes of great deepe Riuers, and as neare as may be in the middell of the chanell, yet for as much as many men esteeme that best which is got with most difficultie, you shall vnderstand that the baytes in which he most delighteth are those which serue for the Trout, as pisse or flies in the Summer, and red-wormes, Bob-wormes, or cankers on the water-docks after Michaelmas. And thus much for the Art of Angling and taking of each severall sort of fish which liue in the fresh or brackish waters.

Of the Salmon.

## CHAP. VII.

Of taking fish without Angles, and first of laying hookes.



**I**n laying of hookes to take fish in the night, is most commonly vsed for the Pyke, in great broad Peares or Waters, full of Sedge Bulrushes, and other weedes, being very deepe, and muddie: Some doe vse to lay them for the Cele also, but you shall vnderstand, that if you lay for the Pyke, you must by no meanes let your hooke goe to the bottome, but with a floate keepe it halfe a fote from the ground, but if you lay for Celes, then let your hookes be smaller, and sinke as low as they will.



Now for the manner of laying them, you shall bayt the hookes as you did when you Angled with Pencke, Roch, Dace, Gudgeon or Pillers-thumb: and being made fast to strong packthrede, fasten also that packthrede to a strong Cord, which Cord if it be three fadome in length, may hold sixtene or twentie hookes. Then fixing two strong stakes into the earth, fasten the two endes of the bigge Cord to the two stakes, and so let it lye from Sunne set till Sunne rise, and you shall neuer fayle, but some of your hookes will haue taken: onely obserue if you lay for Pykes, to lay in the middelt of the water nere the Sedge, and Weedes, but if you lay for Celes, lay nere the Bankes, so there bee no hollow or rotten trees growing thereon.

Now if you would with these laide hookes take any other sorts of fish, you shall lay such hookes as are fit for them: and before you depart away, cast into the water good store of Pellets of those pastes which are proper for the fishes you would take: as the paste which is made of Branne, Sheepes blood, Garlick, and lees of Wine, will take all sortes of small fish: that paste which is made of Sheepes Liver, Cuttes, Hogges blood, Bread-crumes, and Opoponaxe, will bring Pearch, Tench, Carpe, or Bream to your hookes, and that paste which is made of Rue, Pine-Apple kernels, Beane-meale and Honey, will bring the Salmon, the Trout, Cheuan, or Warbell, to your hookes at all times of the yere.

## CHAP. VIII.

Of preserving Fish from all sorts of deuourers.



Amongst all the rauenous Creatures which destroy Fish, there is none more greedy then the Otter, whose onely food being thereon, hourly lyeth in wait to consume them: therefore though some Fishermen vse to take him with a Whele made with a double tunnell, and called by the name of the Otter-Whele, whose practise is so ordinary that every Fisherman knowes the vse of the same: yet for a more ready and easie way to destroy him, you shall as nere as you can finde out his haunt, and the holes that are in the banke, and vnder the rootes of Trees where hee lodgeth, and then take a great Cele, and sitting her backe aboue her nauell, put in thre or foure lumps of Arsnicke, and then stich by the skinne againe, and so lay the Cele from the nauell downeward in the water, and from the nauell vpinward out of the water: which when the Otter findes, it is his propertie to eate to the nauell and no further, which if he doe it is the last he will eate.

*Done*

Next to the Otter, the Verne is a great deuourer of Fish, especially the small Frye, or that which liues in shallow places: therefore to destroy the Verne, you shall take a strong Warbell hooke, and bayt it, eyther with a Mew, or a peece of Dogges flesh: colour your Line greene, and lay it in a shallow place made fast to some stake, where the Verne may wade to the knee to take it, and as soon as he hath swallowed it, hee shall no more goe from the place.

*Same.*

Now, for as much as this Fowle is a great destruction vnto the young Spawne or Frye of Fish, it shall be good for the preservation thereof to stake downe into the

bottomes



bottomes of your Ponds good long Rids, or Faggots of brushwoods, mixt with the boughes of greene Willowes, or Oziers, in which the Fish casting their spawne, it will be a defence for them, till they be able to flye into better safetie.

Next to the Verne, the Water Rat is a great destroyer of yong Fish, especially Trouts, Creussies, or any that lye in holes in the bankes: the best way to destroy them is by hunting them with water Dogges, which is a very good sport, and I haue seene twenty kild in an afternone: but some doe vse to take them with Butches, or dead-falles, set in their haunts, but the former way is the better.

Next them the Sea-pye is a great deuourer of all sorts of Fish, and there is no better way to take him then by setting Roddes drest with Water-Lime, and set shoring by the edge of the water, one crosse ouer another, in such places as the water is most shallowest, and upon some tufts of greene weeds lay a fish for a baite vnder the rods, at which he can no sooner strike but he is taken.

Next these the Kings Fisher (which is a small greene Bird) is a great destroyer of Fish, and the way to take him is to marke his haunt where hee commonly sitteth, which is euer in some Bush next the River: then set a little Cradle of lymde strawes about his seat, and they will quickly take him, for he seldome changeth, but euer sitteth vpon one bough.

Now to conclude, for the Cormozant, the Mochen, the Bald-Coot, or the Ospray, which destroy all kinde of fish whatsoeuer, there is no way better to kill them then by watching their haunts, to shoot at them with a Fowling-pierce, and in the breeding time of the yeere to destroy their nests.

## CHAP. IX.

Of the ordering of Ponds, for the nourishment of Fish.



There is nothing that killeth Fish or maketh them to prosper worse then putrified and stinking water : neyther is there any thing which corrupteth water sooner then Weeds, Sedge, and such filthinesse being suffered to grow therein : therefore it shall be good once in three yeres to cleanse your Ponds of all manner of Weedes and filth, which with a small Boat and a Sharpe hooke you may easily doe at the fall of the Leafe, for to cut them in the Spring doth increase them. Now if your Ponds be much subject to muddoe, as for the most part those in clay Countries are, then it shall be good once in seauen yeres to draine them, and lade them, and this would be done at the beginning of the Spring: and such Fish as you meane to preserve, you shall put into smaller pits or steeves, and the other dispose at your pleasure: then causing the muddoe to be troden with mens feet as you tread Porter, you shall see all the Geeles rise aloft, which when you haue taken also, then with Shouels and trough Spades cast out all the muddoe and filth (which is a singular compasse for Land) vpon the Banke : then sodde the bottome of the Pond, and the sides with greene sods, and fire them hard into the earth with small stakes of Sallow, & these sides will nourish the Fish exceedingly: This done, if your Pond haue not any fresh Spring in it, then you shall lade the water backe againe into it, and then draining your steeves, take out your Stoe of Fish, and put them againe into your Pond, obseruing euer that there be two parts spawners, and but a third melters. These pits and small steeves, how so euer others write to the contrary, are better for feeding of Fish then breeding: therefore you shall euer keepe them with fresh water, and placing so one by another, that you may empty them



them at pleasure, once in three moneths renew their banks and bottomes with fresh sods of the fruitfulllest grasse: also, you shall put into them good store of small Frye of Roche, Dace, Menow, Loche, and Miller-thumbs, for the bigger Fish will feede thereon: also the inward Garbadage and bloud of Sheepe, Calves, Hogges, and such like, which will fat Fish sodainely, for you must know that as the Fish in Rivers haue, by vertue of the current, euer something brought vnto them to feede on, so the Fish which is imprisoned in Ponds, and wants that helpe, must eyther be relieved, or else perishe, & there is nothing better to feede them with, then that before spoken, or else Bzeln-ers Graynes, Chippings, Curds, and any Cozne whatsoever, throwne into the Ponds morning and euening.

## C H A P. X.

## Of the best water-Lime.



The best water Lime that can be made, and which will most surely holde within the water, is to take a pounce of the strongest Bird-lime, and wash it in nine running waters, till there be no hardnes in it, and then beat out the water cleane, and dry it: which done put it into an earthen pot, and adde thereto as much Capons grease as will make it run, two spoonfull of strong Vinegar, a very little Lampe-Oyle, and Venice Turpentine, and boyle them all gently together vpon a soft fire, stirring it continually. Then take it from the fire, and let it coole, then at any time when you meane to vse it, warme it, and then annoynt eyther your Rods, Bushes, Strawes, or Lines, and no water will take away the strength,

F I N I S.



## Of the fighting Cocke.

### CHAP. I.

#### Of the Choyce, Ordering, Breeding, and Dyeting of the fighting-Cocke for Battell.



Since there is no pleasure more noble, delightfome or boyde of couzenage and deceipt then this pleasure of Cocking is : and since many of the best wisedomes of our Nation haue bene pleased to participate with the delights therein, I thinke it not amisse, as well for the instruction of those which are vnerperfenced, as fortifying of them which haue some knowledge therein, to declare in a few lines the election, breeding, and secrets of dyeting the fighting Cocke, which hauing bene hitherto concealed and vnwritten of, is (for our pleasure sake) as worthy a generall knowledge as any delight whatsoever.

To speake then first of the choyce of the fighting Cocke, you shall vnderstand that the best Carracters you can obserue in him, is the shape, colour, courage, and sharpe héele : for his shape the middle and indifferent size

The choyce  
of the Cocke  
for Battell.



is euer accounted best, because they be euer most matchable, strong, nimble, and ready for your pleasure, whereas the huge Cocke (which we call the turne-Pocke) is euer hard to finde an equall, labberly, and affording small pleasure in his battell: and so the exceeding little Cocke is as hard to match, and is commonly weake and tedious in his manner of fighting. He would be of a proud and vpright shape, with a small head, like vnto a Spar-hawke, a quicke large eye, and a strong beake, crookt and bigge at the setting on, and in colour suitable to the plume of his feathers, as blacke, yellow, or reddish. The beame of his legges would be very strong, and according to his plume, blew, gray or yellow: his spurs long, rough, and sharpe, a little bending and looking inward. For his colour, the gray pyle, the yellow pyle, or the red with the blacke best, is esteemed the best: the pyle is not so good, and the white and dunne are the worst. If hee be redde about the head, like skarlet, it is a signe of lust, strength, and courage, but if he be pale it is a signe of sicknesse and faintnesse. For his courage, you shall obserue it in his walke, by his treading, and the pride of his going, and in the pen, by his oft crowing. For the sharpnes of his heele, or as Cocke-masters call it, the narrow heele, it is onely scene in his fighting, for that Cocke is sayd to be sharpe heeld, or narrow heeld, which euery time he riseth hitteth, & draweth blood of his aduersary, guilding (as they fearme it) his spurs in blood, and threating at euery blow an end of the battell. And these Cockes are surely of great estimation, for the best Cocke-masters are of opinion, that a sharpe heeld Cocke, though hee be a little false, is much better then the truest Cocke which hath a dull heele, and hitteth seldome, for though the one fight long yet hee seldome wounds, and the other though hee will not indure the vttermost helwing, yet he makes a quicke dispatch of his businesse, for euery blow puts his aduersary in danger. But that Cocke which is both assuredly hard, and also  
 very

very sharpe heeld, hee is to be esteemed, and is of the most account aboue all other, and therefore in your generall election chuse him which is of strong shape, good colour, true valour, and of a most sharpe and ready heele.

Now for the breeding of these Cockes for the battell, it is much different from those of the dunghill, for they are like Birds of pray, in which the female is euer to be preferred and esteemed before the male, and so in the breed of these Birds you must be sure that your Henne be right, that is to say, she must be of a right plume, as gray, grissell, speckt, or yellowish, blacke or browne is not amisse: she must be kindly to her young, of large body, well pocket behinde for large Egges, and well tufted on the crowne, which shewes courage: if she haue weapons she is better, but for her valour it must be excellent, for if there be any spot of cowardise in her, the Chickens can not be true. And it is a note amongst the best breeders, that the perfect Henne, from a Dunghill-Cocke, will bring a good Chicken, but the best Cocke from a Dunghill Henne can neuer get a good Bird: and I haue knowne in mine owne experience, that the two famousst Cockes that euer fought in these dayes, the one called Noble, the other Grissell, brought on many ill Hennes very badde Cockes, but the famous Henne linkes neuer brought forth ill Bird, how bad soeuer her Cocke were.

The breeding  
of the battell  
Cocke.

Having then vnto perfect Cockes got perfect Hennes (for that is the best breeding) you shall know that the best season of the yere to breede in, is from the increase of the Moone in February, to the increase of the Moone in March, for one March Bird is euer better worth then three at any other season. You shall place her Henne in which she sitteth, to stand warme, and to make her badde of soft and sweet straw, for they be much tenderer then the Dunghills are, neither shall you suffer any other Fowle to come in her view where she sits, for it will moue her to displeasure, and make her in danger her Eggs.



You shall also obserue in her sitting, whether she be busie to turne her Egges (which is a good signe in a Henne) and if she be slacke you shall helpe her at such times as she riseth from her nest, and euer be sure that when she cometh from her nest to haue meat and water ready for her, lest being forced to seeke her foode, she suffer her Egges to coole too much: also, you shall haue Sand, Grauell, and fine sifted albes in the roome where she sitteth, in which she may bathe and trimme her selfe, at her pleasure. After one and twenty dayes is the time of their hatching, and if when they are new hatched, shee doe neglect to couer and keepe the first warme till the rest be disclosed, you shall obserue her, and take those that are first opened, and lapping them warme in Wool, lay them within the ayre of the fire till the rest be hatcht, and then put them all vnder her, and keeping both the Henne and them exceeding warme, for they be so tender that the least cold will kill them, and suffer neither them nor the Henne to goe abroad into the ayre till they be a moneth olde: and let them haue store of foode, as Wat-meale, Chese parings, Chilter-wheat, and such like, and a large roome to walke in, the floore being boarded, for the earth-floare is too moyst, and the platter-floare too colde. After they are a moneth olde, you shall let them walke in some grasse court, where they may haue store of woymes, but by all meanes be sure that there be no stinking puddles of water in it, no sinckes, nor filthy Channels, for it is the greatest payson that can be to Birds of this nature, and breedeth those diseases which are most mortall: therefore if euery morning before they goe forth, you perfume them and their roome with Rosemary, or Penny-royall burnt, it is a great preservation against all those infirmities, or to choppe Locke blades amongst their meate is good also. In this sort you shall nourish them till you may distinguish the Cocke-Chicken from the Henne, and then seeing their Combes or Wattels but appeare,

you shall cut them away, and seare them close, and so annoynt the soze with swete Butter till it be whole. This will make them haue fine, small, slender and smooth heads, whereas to suffer the Combe to grow to his bignesse, and then cut it away, it will make him haue a goutie thicke head, with great lumpes: neyther is the sure of blond wholesome, for the least losse of blond in a feathered fowle, is mortall and dangerous. You shall suffer your Cocke-chickens to goe together with their Hennes till they beginne to fight, and pecke one at another, but then you shall seperate them, and dispierce them into severall walkes: and that walke is the best for a fighting Cocke which is farthest from resort, as at Winde milles or Water-milles, Grange-houses, and such like, where hee may liue with his Hennes without the offence or company of other Cockes: Lodges in Parkes are also good, and so are Cony-warrens, onely they are a little too much haunted with vermine, and that is dangerous, let the feeding-place for your Cockes be vpon soft dye ground, or vpon boards, for to feede vpon panned earth, or on Plaster floores will make their beakes weake, blunt, and not apt to holde fast. Any white Corne is good foode for a Cocke in his walke, and so are tosses or crustes of bread kept in drinke, or mans vyne, for it will scower and coole them inwardly.

If your Chickens beginne to crow (not being sixe monthes old) cleare and lowde, or at vnseasonable times, doe not esteeme them, for it is an apparant signe of cowardise and falthood: for the true Cocke is very long befoze hee get his voyce, and when he hath it, hee obserues his houres with the best iudgement. Unto your fighting Cocke thre Hennes are sufficient, five are with the most, for they are so hotte of nature and will treade so much, that they soone consume their naturall strength.



A Cocke would not be put to the battell before hee bee two yeres old, at which time he is perfect and compleate in euery member, for to suffer him to fight when his spurres are but warts, you may well know his courage, but neuer his goodnesse. You must also haue an especiall care to the Perch whereon your Cocke sitteth when hee rousteth, for if it be too small in the grype, or crooked, or so ill placed that he cannot sit but he must straddle with his legges, any of these faults will make him vneuen held, and whatsoeuer he was naturally, yet by this accident, he will neuer be good striker. for the making of the Perch, either maketh or marreth the Cock, therefore to preuent this fault, the best way is to haue in your roust a row of little Perches, not aboue seauen or eight inches in length, and not a fote from the ground, so that your Cocke may with ease goe vp to them, and being set, must of force haue his legges stand nere together, for it is a rule that he which is a close sitter is euer a narrow striker. Let the footstole of the Perch be round and smooth, and about the bignesse of a mans arme. Yet for your better knowledge, because wordes cannot so well expresse these quantitties, it shall not be amisse for you to goe to some famous Cock-masters house, and view the Perches which are within his feeding penne, and according to those proportions frame your owne, for the perch is the making and spoyling of any Cocke whatsoeuer. Again, you must be carefull, that when your Cocke doth leape from his Perch, that the ground be soft whereon he lighteth, for if it be hard or rough, it will make your Cocke grow goutie, and put forth knots vpon his feete.

The dyeting of  
Cocks for the  
battell.

Now lastly, for the dieting and ordzing of a Cocke for a battell, which is a secret, yet neuer divulged, but kept close in the breasts of some few, and for as much as in it onely consisteth all the ground and substance of the pleasure, the best Cocke vndieted, not being able to encounter with the worst Cocke that is dieted: you shall vnderstand,

Stand, that the time to take vp your Cockes is at the latter end of August (for from that time till the latter ende of May, Cocking is in request) and hauing viewed them well, and see that they are sound, hard feathered, and full summed, you shall put them into severall pens, the models whereof you may behold in euery Cock-masters or Keepers house, hauing a moving Perch in it, to set at which corner of the pen you please.

Of taking vp  
Cocks.

This pen would be made of very close boardes, well ioyned together all but the forefront, which would be made open, like a grate, one Barre two inches distant from another, and before the grate two large Troughs of soft wood. one for his meate, the other for his water. The doore of the grate would be made to lift vp and down, of such largenesse that you may with ease put your Cocke in and out, and daily cleanse the pen to keepe it swete and wholesome. The Pen would be at least three fote in height, and two fote in square euery way, and many of them may be ioyned in one front, according to the bignesse of the roome, in which they are built: and also one aboue another, onely with ouershadowing boardes, so that one Cocke may not see another.

Of the Cocke  
Pen.

When your Cocke, as aforesaid, is put vp into his Pen, you shall for three or foure dayes feede him onely with old Panchet, the crust pared away, and cut into little square bits, and you shall giue him to the quantity of a good great handfull at a time, and you shall feede him three times in the day, that is to say, at Sunne rise, at high noone, and at Sunne set. You shall euer let him haue before him the finest, coldest, and sweetest Spring-water that you can get. After hee hath bene thus fed foure dayes, and his Corne, Wormes, Cranet, and other course feeding scoldered out of him, you shall then in stead of feeding him in the Morning, take him out of the Pen, and another Cocke also, and putting a payre of Hots vpon each of their heeles, which

Of his dyet.

Of Sparring  
of Cocks.

Hots



Hots are soft humbassed ronles of Leather, couering their Spurs, so that they cannot hurt or bzuise one another, and so setting them vpon the greene grasse, let them fight and buffet one another a good space, as long as in their teaching they doe not wound or draw bloud one vpon another: and this is called the sparring of Cocks: it heateth and chafeth their bodie, and it breaketh the fat and glut which is within them, and maketh it apt to cleanse and come away.

After your Cocks haue sparred sufficiently, and that you see them pant and grow weary, you shall take them by, and taking off their Hots, you must haue deepe straw baskets made for the purpose, with swete soft straw to the middle, and then putting in your Cocke, coner him with swete straw vp to the top, and then lay on the lidde close, and there let your Cocke stoue and sweate till the Euening. But yet befoze you put him into the stoue, you shall take Butter, Rosemary finely chopt, and white Sugar-candie, all mixt together, and giue him a lump thereof, as much as your thumbe, and then let him sweat, for the nature of this scowring is to bzing away his grease, and to bzeede bzeath and strength. You may in time of necessity for want of these straw baskets stow your Cocke in a Cocke-bagge, by laying straw both vnder and aboue him, but it is not so good, because the Ayze hath more power to passe thorow it. After foure of the clocke in the Euening, you may take your Cocke out of the stoue, and licking his head and eyes all ouer with your tongue, put him into his Pen, and then taking a good handfull of bread, small cut, put it into his trough, and then pissing into the trough, also giue it him to eate, so as he may take his bread out of the warme brine, for this will make his scowring worke, and cleanse both his head and bodie wonderfully.

Of the best  
Diet-bread.

Now you shall vnderstand, that the bread which you shall giue him at this time, and at all other times during his

his dyeting shall not be Gaunchet, but a speciall Bread made for the purpose, in this manner: you shall take of Wheat-meale halfe a Pecke, and of fine Bat-meale flower as much, and mixing them together kneade them into a stiffe paste, with Ale, the white of a dozen Egges, and halfe a pound of Butter, and hauing wrought the dowe exceeding well, make it into broad thinne Cakes, and being thre or foure dayes olde, and the blisterings of the outside cut away, cut it into little square bits, and giue it the Cocke.

There be some that in this Bread will mixe Licozas, Annis-seeds, and other hot Spices, and will also in the Cockes water keepe slices of Licozas, but it is both vn-naturall and vnwholesome, and maketh a Cocke so hot at the heart that when he comes to the latter end of a battell he is suffocated and ouercome with his owne heat: therefore I aduise all men of iudgement to take that for the best dyet which is most naturall and least contrary to the Fowles ordinary feeding.

But to returne to my former discourse, after you haue fedde your Cocke thus for all night, you shall the next day let him rest, and onely giue him his ordinary feedings of Bread and Water, then the next day (which is the second day after his sparring) you shall take him into a fayre euen greene Close, and there setting him downe, hauing some Dunghill Cocke in your armes you shall shew it him and so run from him, and entice him to follow you, and so chase vp and downe halfe an houre at the least, suffering him now and then to haue a stroke at the Dunghill Cocke. And when you see that he is well heated and pants, you shall take him vp and beare him into your Cocke-house, and there first giue him this scouring: Take of Butter, which hath no salt; halfe a pound, and beate it in a Porter with the leaues of Hearbe of Grace, Tlopp, and Rosemary, till the Hearbes cannot be perceiued, and that the Butter is brought to a greene Salue, and of this giue the

The best  
Scowring.



the Cocke a roule or two, as bigge as your thumbe, and then stone him in the basket, as is befoze sayd, till Curing, and then feede as was formerly declared. The next day you shall let him rest and feede, and the next day after you shall sparre him againe, and thus euery other day for the first fortnight, you shall eyther sparre or chase your Cocke, which are the most naturallest and kindest heates that you can giue him, and after euery heate you shall giue him a scouring: for this will breake and cleanse from him all grease, glut, and filthinesse, which lying in his body, makes him purrie, faint, and not able to stand out the latter end of a battell. Having fedde your Cocke thus the first fortnight, the second fortnight you shall also feede him in the same manner, and with the same food, but you shall not sparre him, or giue him heats aboue twice in a weeke at the most, in so much that thrice or foure times in the fortnight will be sufficient, and each time you shall stone and scoure him, according to the nature of his heats, that is to say, if you heat him much you shall stone him long, and giue him of your scouring the greater quantitie: if you finde that hee is in good breath, and needeth but sleight heates, then you shall stone him the lesse while, and giue him the lesse of the scouring. Now to the third fortnight, which maketh by the fire weekes compleat, (being a time sufficient to prepare a Cocke for his battell) you shall feede him as aforesaid, but you shall not sparre him at all, for feare of making his head tender or soze, neither giue him any violent exercise, but onely twice or thrice in the fortnight, moderately, let him runne and chase vp and downe, to maintaine his winde, and now and then cuffe a Cocke, which you shall holde to him in your hands, which done, you shall giue him his scouring well rould in the powder of Sugar-Candy, white or browne, but browne is the better, for the Cocke then being come to perfect breath, and hauing no filth in his body for the scouring to worke on, it will worke vpon the vitall parts, and  
make

make the Cocke sicke, which the Sugar-Candy will preuent, and strengthen nature against the medicine. After the end of sixe weekes feeding, finding your Cocke in lust and breath, you may fight him at your pleasure, obseruing that he haue at least thre dayes rest befoze he fight, and well emptied of his meat befoze you bring him into the Pit.

Now when you bring him into the Pit to fight, you must haue an especiall care to the matching of him, for in that Art consisteth the greatest glory of the Cocke-master, for what auaileth it to feede neuer so well, if in the matching you giue that aduantage which ouerthroweth all your former labour? Therefore in your matching there is two things to be considered: that is, the length of Cockes, and the strength of Cockes: for if your aduersary-Cocke be too long, yours shall hardly catch his head, and then he can neither indanger eye or life: and if he be the stronger, he will over-bear your Cocke, and not suffer him to rise, and strike with any aduantage: therefore, for the knowledge of these two rules, though experience be the best Tutor, yet the first, which is length, you shall iudge by your eye, when you gripe the Cocke about the waste, and make him shut out his legges, in which posture you shall see the utmost of his height, and so compare them in your iudgement. Now for his strength, which is knowne by the thickenesse of his body, for that Cocke is ever helde the strongest which is largest in the garth, you shall know it by the measure of your hands, gripping the Cocke about from the points of your great fingers, to the topnts of your thumbes, and epyther of these aduantages by no meanes giue to your aduersary, but if you doubt losse in the one, yet be sure to gaine in the other: for the weak long Cocke will rise at more ease, and the short strong Cocke will giue the surer blow, so that because all Cockes are not cast in a mould, there may be a reconciliation of the aduantages, yet by all meanes giue as little as you can.

The matching  
of Cockes.



Of preparing  
Cockes to  
the fight.

When your Cocke is equally matcht, you shall thus prepare him to the fight, first with a payze of fine Cocke Sheares you shall cut all his Paine off, close to his necke, even from his head to the setting on of his Shoulders, then you shall clip off all the feathers from his tayle close to his rumpe: where, the more skarlet that you see his rumpe, in the better estate of body the Cocke is. Then you shall take his wings, and spreading them forth by the length of the first feather of his wing, clippe the rest slope wise with sharpe points, that in his rising he may therewith indanger the eyes of his aduersary: then with a sharp knife you shall scrape smooth, and sharpen his beake, then shall you smooth and sharpen his spurres.

The ordering  
of Cockes af-  
ter the Battell,  
and the curing  
them.

Lastly, you shall see that there be no feathers about the crowne of his head for his foe to take holde on, and then with your spittle morking his head all ouer, turne him into the Bit to proue his fortune: when the battell is ended the first thing you doe, you shall search his wounds, and as many as you can finde you shall with your mouth sucke the blood out of them, then wash them with warme Urine, to keepe them from rankeling, and giue him a roule or two of your best scouring, and so stoue him vp as hot as you can, both with straw and blanketting in a close Basket for all that night, then in the morning take him forth, and if his head be much sweld, you shall sucke his wounds againe, and bathe them with warme Urine, then hauing in a fine bagge the powder of the Hearbe Robert, well dyed, and finely seyrst, pounce all the soze places therewith, and then giue the Cocke a handfull of Bread to eate out of warme Urine, and so put him into the stoue againe, and by no means let him seele the ayre till all the swelling bee gone, but twice a day sucke his wounds, dresse him, and feede him, as is aforesaid. But if he haue receiued any hurt, or blemish in his eye, then you shall take a leafe or two of right ground Iuyce, not that which runneth along the ground, and is of the igno-  
rant

rant so called, but that which growes in little tufts in the bottome of hedges, and is a little round rough leafe, and hauing chewde it well in your mouth, and suckt out the iuyce, spit it into the eye of the Cocke, and it will not onely cure it of any wound, or blow in the eye, where the sight is not pierced, but also defend it from the breeding of splmes, hawes, warts, or such other infirmities, which quite destroy the sight: obseruing that you doe not cease to dresse the eye therewith so long as you shall perceiue any blemish therein.

Now if your Cocke haue in his sight beyned himselte, eyther by narrow striking, or other crosse blow, you shall finde out the wound, and presently binde thereunto the fine soft downe of a Hare, and it will both staunch it, and cure it. For any other casuall infirmitie or sickenesse which shall happen vnto Cockes, looke in a little Booke called Cheape and Good, and you shall finde them set downe at large, onely I will giue you this one small remembrance, that after you haue put forth your wounded Cockes to their walkes, and come to visit them a moneth or two after; if you finde about their heads any swelled bunches, hard, and blackish at one end, you shall know that in such bunches are vnsound chores: therefore presently with your Knife you shall open the same, and crush out the chores with your thumbs, then with your mouth sucke out all the corruption, and then fill the holes full of fresh Butter, and it will cure them. And

thus much for the Pature of the  
Cocke, and how to keepe him  
for his best vse in the  
Pleasures of  
Hazines.



Alex<sup>r</sup> McHenry

Halfpenny January 10<sup>th</sup> 1761

FINIS

